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LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is taking measures to restore peace and national harmony, ensure conditions for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes in dignity and safety, strengthen social and political stability and the rule of law, and protect the dignity and honour of all people without distinction as to race, ethnic origin, religious belief or place of residence and facilitate their speedy integration in State and public affairs.

The objective of the activities of the Government of Tajikistan in the international sphere is to ensure the security, integrity and political independence of Tajikistan and the unity of its people, and to establish friendly relations on an equal footing with all countries, first of all with neighbouring States.

Other priorities of Tajikistan's foreign policy include the establishment and strengthening of regional cooperation in the areas of trade and economy, science and technology, culture, humanitarian affairs and information, the establishment of a system of regional and collective security, and participation in all constructive international processes.

The civil conflict has caused immense material damage to Tajikistan and has damaged its morale. The painful consequences of that conflict will be felt by our people for years to come.

Tajikistan's economic recovery and return to normal life will require not only the concerted efforts of the Tajik people but also active aid and assistance from the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States and other international and regional organizations.

We are sincerely grateful to you for the attention you have given to the problems of Tajikistan. On your behalf, two United Nations missions were sent

to our country; those missions helped to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan, and we are now awaiting the arrival of a group of United Nations observers with whom we promise to cooperate fully.

I have the honour to transmit to you a document prepared by the Government of Tajikistan containing an assessment of the economic and social damage caused by the civil conflict.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Lakim K. KAYUMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

Annex

Assessment by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of the economic and social damage caused by the civil conflict

The armed confrontation of various political groups in the country, which in 1992 lasted for more than 10 months, has led to the sharp decline of the economic situation in Tajikistan. As a result of the long blockade of railway lines and highways, the lack of fuel and lubricants and necessary material and technical resources, as well as a sharp rise in migration processes, Tajikistan's economy was practically paralysed, and overall economic damage amounts to more than 200 billion roubles.

Today, industrial production has declined by 23 per cent; during the last 10 months of 1992, there was a shortfall in deliveries of output valued at 4 billion roubles; that includes, in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, a shortfall in output amounting to 1.5 billion roubles, in Dushanbe - 400 million roubles, and in Gissar District - 50 million roubles.

Between January and November 1992, the output of consumer goods fell by 24.5 per cent, light-industry goods fell by 14 per cent and foodstuffs by 27.5 per cent. The volume of production fell drastically in October and November 1992.

Light-industry enterprises were paralysed as a result of the non-delivery of artificial and synthetic threads and fibres, knitted and synthetic material, leather goods, glues, chemical dyes and auxiliary materials.

Production of cotton textiles fell by 39.4 per cent, hosiery by 26.1 per cent, footwear by 36 per cent, silk textiles by 6.2 per cent, furniture by 55.4 per cent, refrigerators by 54.9 per cent, meat by 59.3 per cent, whole-milk products by 37.5 per cent and vegetable oil by 33.7 per cent.

Tajikistan's light industry suffered substantial losses. As a result of destruction and fires, 130 million roubles are needed to replace the fixed assets of the Kurgan-Tyube cotton-spinning mill, 14 million roubles are needed for the Nurek sewing factory and 11 million roubles for the Kurgan-Tyube sewing factory.

Fires have destroyed 300 tons of cotton fibre, approximately 70 tons of cotton yarn, 6.5 million roubles worth of equipment, transformers and electric motors, 185 million roubles worth of transport vehicles, in addition to which material assets worth approximately 100 million roubles have been stolen.

In Dushanbe, property totalling 500 million roubles was stolen from various enterprises. The situation of the food industry is critical. The production of meat, fish, sausage and confectionery has declined more than twofold as compared to the same period in the previous year. The production

of margarine, mayonnaise and sour-milk products has virtually halted. During the last few months of 1992, in Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tyube alone, the shortfall in deliveries of basic foodstuffs amounted to 216 million roubles.

Tajikistan's transport industry has been seriously damaged.

In particular, more than 5,000 automobiles have been stolen or destroyed, 26 freight and passenger cars have been put out of service, and 184 railway freight containers have been destroyed or damaged. Preliminary data indicate that the overall damage to this branch amounts to approximately 4 billion roubles.

Tajikistan's agricultural complex has suffered irreplaceable losses. The overall damage resulting from a shortfall in agricultural production and the destruction of fixed assets amounts to approximately 291 billion roubles. Shortfalls have been recorded for practically all of Tajikistan's listed agricultural products. Thus, in 1992, only 53.7 per cent (440,000 tons) of the estimated volume of raw cotton was procured. Similarly, only 61.2 per cent (264.6 thousand tons) of the estimated cereal crop, and 55.6 per cent (79.7 thousand tons) of the potato crop, was procured.

In former Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, the poultry farming industry was virtually destroyed. According to preliminary estimates, damages to that industry exceed 41 million roubles. There was a sharp decline in head of cattle and small livestock, and no less than 1 billion roubles will be required to restore their number to the levels of early 1992.

Fighting among the various political groups has caused substantial damage to housing in Tajikistan.

It has been estimated that the overall area of destroyed houses is 608.6 thousand square metres. The total cost of the damage is 304.3 million roubles at book cost.

The greatest damage was caused in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast: 417 thousand square metres (208.5 million roubles). In Dushanbe, the damage was 75 thousand square metres (37.5 million roubles), in Kofarnikhon District - 20 thousand square metres (10 million roubles) and in Yavan District - 15 thousand square metres (7.5 million roubles).

The damage caused to Tajikistan's social sector will be difficult to repair. In the area of health care alone, damages exceed 2 billion roubles and, in the area of culture, damages amount to over 11 billion roubles. According to preliminary estimates, more than 5 billion roubles will be needed for construction, major repairs and the reconstruction of educational facilities destroyed in the fighting.

Military conflicts have aggravated the problem of human migration. Over 537,000 refugees have been officially registered in Tajikistan.

In Dushanbe alone there are more than 120,000 refugees and, according to preliminary estimates, material assistance to refugees will cost approximately 9 billion roubles.

The flow of refugees to other countries has increased.

In just nine months in 1992, approximately 70,000 people, 44,000 of whom were able-bodied workers, left the country. It is estimated that approximately 3 billion roubles will be needed to train personnel to replace those who left Tajikistan.

Because of the armed conflict, it is extremely difficult for Tajikistan to administer the State budget.

For the execution of the budget for January-November 1992, Tajikistan had at its disposal only 26.3 per cent of projected income. That reflects a shortfall of approximately 9 billion roubles for the one-year plan, which included projected income from value-added tax (1.2 billion roubles), excises (3.7 billion roubles), privatization of State property (2.6 billion roubles) and the revaluation of goods (1.9 billion roubles).

The stock of overdue debt on bank loans and mutual settlements between enterprises and economic organizations increased from 1.6 billion roubles at the beginning of 1992 to 12.4 billion roubles as at 1 November 1992; of that amount, 11 billion roubles resulted from the lack of funds in enterprises' accounts.

According to preliminary data, total income for 1992 will amount to 15.7 billion roubles (66.5 per cent), which represents a shortfall of approximately 8 billion roubles.

In December 1992, more than 15 billion roubles will be needed to finance vitally important measures alone; that amount includes compensation for disparities in grain prices (approximately 10 billion roubles) and payment of salaries (4 billion roubles), for which there is no source of funding.

According to the draft emergency budget for 1993, income for 1993 - provided the situation in the country stabilizes - is estimated at 37.1 billion roubles, which is 2.4 times greater than expected budget income for 1992; budgetary expenditure will amount to 62.7 billion roubles, which is 1.7 times greater than in 1992. It should be noted that this expenditure does not include resources for compensating disparities in grain prices (30 billion roubles) and for the construction of the Rogun hydroelectric power station (14 billion roubles); those resources will be obtained from additional sources of income, including foreign credit.

That is a short description of the social and economic situation that has evolved in Tajikistan as a result of the armed conflict. While the extent of the damage is still being assessed, it is obvious that Tajikistan is unable to rebuild its economy single-handedly, and it is relying on concrete international assistance and support.

The Government of Tajikistan appeals to the United Nations to provide assistance for the speedy reconstruction and recovery of its economic and social sectors, and to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of Tajikistan, in particular in the form of food and medicine and the construction of housing for those who have been left homeless.

We appeal to international economic and financial institutions and donor countries to offer Tajikistan, to the extent possible, credits and loans on favourable terms, bearing in mind that Tajikistan is a least developed country and has suffered greatly from civil unrest.